

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 00973 092059Z

61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OPR-02 AID-20 SY-10 USSS-00 NIC-01 RSR-01 /123 W

----- 048564

R 092037Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5516

INFO CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0973

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, TD

SUBJ: ATTACK ON POLICE STATION

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

REF: POS 0628

1. DURING EVENING OF AUGUST 7 UNKNOWN NUMBER OF MEN ATTACKED POLICE STATION AT MATELOT, AN ISOLATED FISHING VILLAGE ON NORTH-EAST COAST OF TRINIDAD. LONE POLICEMAN ON DUTY WAS DRIVEN OFF AND STATION DAMAGED. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE ATTACKERS TOOK 13 SHOTGUNS, A PISTOL, AND QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION FROM STATION BUT WERE UNABLE TO BREAK INTO ARMS SAFE. ONE CIVILIAN WOUNDED BY ATTACKERS. PORT OF SPAIN PRESS AUGUST 9 ANNOUNCED THAT MATELOT POLICE STATION HAS NOW BEEN ABANDONED.

2. ABOUT SAME TIME FOUR ARMED MEN HELD UP HARDWARE STORE IN SOUTH TRINIDAD. PRESS HAS REPORTED THEY TOOK EIGHT SHOTGUNS, A PISTOL AND AMMUNITION.

3. DURING OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF POLICE SEARCH FOR MATELOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 00973 092059Z

ATTACKERS, RECENTLY ACQUIRED POLICE HELICOPTER WAS DAMAGED IN CRASH

LANDING. GOTT NOW HAS OPERATIONAL ONLY ONE COAST GUARD HELICOPTER.

4. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF EFFORTS BY SECURITY FORCES TO TRACK DOWN ATTACKERS OF TEXTEL STATION MAY 31, ALSO ON NORTH COAST, IT APPEARS THAT SAME OR CLOSELY ALLIED GROUP HAS STRUCK AGAIN. OMINOUSLY, TWO NEWEST RAIDS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AT OBTAINING ARMS. CLOSING OF MATELOT POLICE STATION, IF FULLY IMPLEMENTED, IS POLITICALLY UNFORTUNATE ACTION WHICH WILL DENY FULL-TIME POLICE PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE ALONG NORTH SHORE FROM TOCO TO BLANCHISSEUSE AND GIVE IMPRESSION THAT GOTT ON THE DEFENSIVE.

MARSHALL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PORTO00973
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARSHALL
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730848/aaaabixn.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: POS 0628
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTACK ON POLICE STATION CINCLANT FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINS, TD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005